

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 00057 050826Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

-----072903 050828Z /13

R 050500Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T SANA 057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, YE

SUBJECT: CALL ON COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER MAJ ABDULLAH ABD AL-ALIM CAUTIOUSLY DISCUSSED INTERNAL AND REGIONAL POLITICS, EXPRESSED HOPES FOR CONTINUED US COOPERATION, AND SAID HE IS DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP MAINTAIN STABILITY OF PRESENT REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. EVER SINCE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT HAMDI, AMBASSADOR HAS SOUGHT PROPITIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH ABD AL-ALIM. CONTACTS AMONG YAR LEADERSHIP INCLUDING PRESIDENT GHASMI INITIALLY ADVISED THAT TIME WAS NOT RIPE. MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR HAD WORD FROM FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-ASNAJ THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEE ABD AL-ALIM NOW.

3. AMBASSADOR AND DEFENSE ATTACHE CALLED ON ABD AL-ALIM ON 4 JANUARY. ABD AL-ALIM SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED BY VISIT, FREQUENTLY INQUIRING WHY AMBASSADOR HAD NOT COME BEFORE. DURING INTERVIEW ABD AL-ALIM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANA 00057 050826Z

SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN YAR AND NEIGHBORING STATES, ALBEIT IN GUARDED AND SOMEWHAT CIRCUITOUS MANNER, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON WHAT THE FELT US ROLE IN AREA SHOULD BE. ALLUDING SEVERAL TIMES TO LONG-STANDING COMPETITION BETWEEN US AND USSR, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "THE SIDE WHICH ACQUIRES GREATEST SUPPORT AMONG PEOPLE WITH POWER WILL BE VICTORIOUS." CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID, WITHIN YEMEN AND ELSEWHERE IN REGION US SHOULD SEEK

SUPPORT FROM ELEMENTS CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING EVENTS, NOT FROM "CLASSICAL GROUPS". (THIS SINGULAR APPELLATION APPEARED TO REFER TO TRADITIONAL POLITICIANS AND MEMBERS OF YEMEN'S SMALL WESTERNIZED MINORITY.) HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT AND HOPED IT WILL CONTINUE.

4. AS THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED INCREASINGLY ON RECENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN YEMEN, ABD AL-ALIM BECAME EVEN MORE OBSCURE. HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN MARKED DETERIORATION IN PUBLIC MORALE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, AS SHOULD BE EVIDENT FROM TALKING WITH THE MAN IN THE STREET. HE REFRAINED FROM ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY TO ANY GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL, HOWEVER, AND AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT YEMEN'S MANY DIVERSE ELEMENTS MUST COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN ORDER ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARD STABILITY WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE PROGRESS OF YEMEN. ABD AL-ALIM RESPONDED WITH A SIGNIFICANT PERORATION: "I AM EXERTING MY BEST EFFORTS TOWARD THIS END. I ONLY HOPE THAT COLONEL AHMAD (AL-GHASHMI) AND OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS WILL DO THE SAME."

5. COMMENT. ABD AL-ALIM WAS FRIENDLY BUT CLEARLY ON HIS GUARD. HIS PREDILECTION FOR A CIRCUITOUS APPROACH TO POLITICAL DISCUSSION, WHICH WE HAVE NOTED IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH HIM, WAS PARTICULARLY APPARENT THIS TIME. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE LED THE CONVERSATION TO THE BRINK OF AN APPARENT REVELATION ONLY TO STEER AWAY FROM IT. HE SEEMED DESIROUS OF TALKING MORE ABOUT GAHASHMI AND OTHER UNNAMED MILITARY LEADERS BUT COULD NOT GIVE HIMSELF TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANA 00057 050826Z

DO SO. HE URGED AMBASSADOR TO CALL AGAIN SOON AND OFTEN AND WE WILL MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF THIS KEY INDIVIDUAL.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANA00057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780008-0084
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780196/aaaadddm.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62ce8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3824101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER
TAGS: MILI, PINT, SA, YE, (SCOTES, THOMAS J), (AL-ALIM, ABDULLAH)
To: STATE JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62ce8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014